STAY HOME
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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Thursday 26th March 2020
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Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

COVID-19: Number of persons under observation spikes

On Mar. 23, it was 348; 452 on Mar. 24; 898 on Mar. 25

CARELESSNESS AT ITS PEAK: ***A Policeman in mufti reprimands a man who was moving around on a two-wheeler with two small children exposing them to the virus spread. The scooterist and the children were not even wearing masks. The vehicle was intercepted this morning at Government Ayurveda College Circle and the man was asked to return home.***

Mysuru, Mar. 26 (RK&BCT)- The total number of COVID-19 positive cases rose to 649 in India and the death toll due to Novel Coronavirus has reached 13. Karnataka reported one more death last evening with the death of COVID-19 positive woman in Gauribidanur. She had come from Dubai on Mar. 20 and was under observation. Karnataka's toll is two with the first death of a man in Kalaburagi.

Though there are only two positive cases in Mysuru, the number of people under observation has seen a remarkable increase even as people continue to move around carelessly on roads, in open violation of lockdown. Some are even seen taking their children in their vehicles dangerously exposing them.

According to a media bulletin released on Mar. 23, 2020 by Mysuru District Administration, the total number of people under observation stood at 348. On Mar. 24, this number increased to 452 and on Mar. 25, the number has touched 898. Even the number of persons isolated in homes for 14 days that stood at 247 on Mar. 23 rose to 321 on Mar. 24 and the number stood at 749 on Mar. 25.

Meanwhile, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has asked people not to venture out of their homes unless it is absolutely necessary. He said that thousands of people have come to Mysuru from Bengaluru and all of them have been advised to stay at home.

"If they have any symptoms of cough, cold and breathlessness, they must report to the nearest Govt. Hospital or K.R. Hospital for tests. People must avoid crowding at shops and medical stores when they purchase essentials. They must stand at designated places and follow the line-rule and maintain safe distance from others," he said.

Residents can take parcels from hotels and arrangements are being made to supply essentials in an open ground where one person from a family can come and collect rations, the DC added.

MCC sets up shelter for destitute and shelter-less

Mysuru, Mar.26 (DM&RK)- With a lockdown period till April 14, 2020 the MCC has set up an 'Ashraya' shelter home for destitute men and the shelter-less at its Zone-6 Office located on Seshadri Iyer Road, Devaraja Mohalla.

The centre can accommodate 50 persons and all the inmates will be provided free food. The centre also has a TV for entertainment. All the inmates are provided face masks, sanitisers and hand gloves as a safety measure and all steps have been taken to ensure that no inmate leaves out of the centre for any reason.

Also, the District Health Officer has been asked to carry out regular health check-ups of the centre inmates. As there are only a few destitute women in city, Women and Child Welfare Department has taken their responsibility.

To Our Readers

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800

Karnataka Helpline number: 104

Central Helpline number:
011-23978046

Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

Udupi man kills self fearing he had contracted Coronavirus

His suicide note asks family to get tested

Udupi, Mar. 26 - A 56-year-old man in Udupi allegedly committed suicide yesterday fearing that he had contracted the deadly COVID-19.

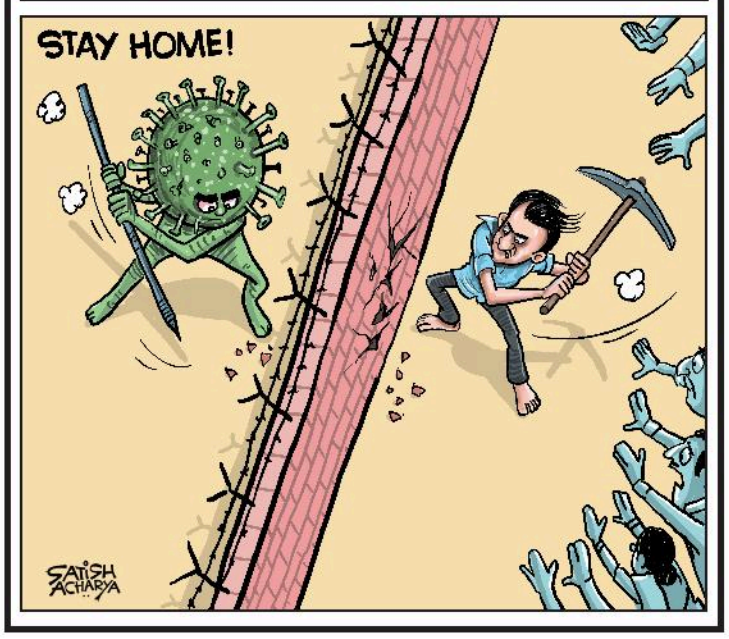
Found hanging near a tree outside his house, the man had left behind a suicide note to his family which stated that he had contracted Coronavirus, and thus his family must get tested too for the same.

However, Police said that he was not in the list of people who had been asked to remain in home quarantine. He also did not display any symptoms, Police added.

The man is survived by his wife and two children.

A throat-swab test for Coronavirus has now been set in motion; post-mortem details are awaited.

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Thursday 26th March 2020

Lessons from Lockdown

Even as the land's media has been drumming up the unsavoury phenomenon of *slowdown* of the nation's economy, invoking global rating agencies as well as World Bank and Asian Development Bank along with India's noted economists, we are presently facing another unheard of and unprecedented happening, now familiar to all as *lockdown* emerging dramatically after *shutdown* in some regions of the country. India's Prime Minister has called upon the country's diaspora on two occasions through nationwide telecast in a week's time to fight the dreaded virus COVID-19 with courage and hope by joining the Government in following every advisory being publicised through all channels of media. His clarion call to maintain self-restraint in undertaking journeys, observing the symptoms of the effects known to be caused by the pandemic, crowding in public places, littering the living areas and so on bring to our mind the role played by Britain's Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill during second World War through exhorting his fellow-citizens to fight the enemy from their homes, in the streets and everywhere.

Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, pandemics, forest fires, droughts, heat waves, cloud bursts and so on, happening in different regions across the world throughout the year continue to be occasions for testing the resilience of human beings, animals and plants in overcoming the trials and tribulations thereof. Now, it is lockdown for 21 days as the testing time of India's diaspora.

While the administration, along with a multitude of voluntary groups that are known to rise to the emergencies all over the country are leaving no stones unturned in launching measures to keep in check the spread of the virus, caring for the virus-affected sections and also the many vulnerable sections such as slum-dwellers, tribals, urban poor, disabled and ignorant masses assume equal importance. Lesson number one from the lockdown is for the citizens to give up their disorderly lifestyle that has overburdened the healthcare system and the law-keeping machinery. Lesson number two is to refrain from talking irresponsibly from both public platforms and on the streets. Lesson number three is not to rush to the stores for panic buying of life's essentials and worsen the plight of those who don't have the wherewithal to survive.

The issue of maintaining order in society, starting from the family, its smallest unit, is now staring at everybody. Enlarging the list of laws and penalising the violating parties in the country costs a bomb to the nation. The final lesson of the lockdown is to reduce this cost to zero. India's political freedom needs to be deserved by learning the lessons from lockdown and coming clean even as the world is watching.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Out of about a thousand Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that are authorised to award degrees in India, about 400 are State Public Universities that produce over 90% of our graduates and contribute to about one-third of the research publications from this country. That their quality and performance is poor in most cases is accepted as a given today. It is evidenced by their poor performance in institutional rankings, the poor employment status of their students, rather poor quality of their publications, negligible presence in national-level policy/decision-making bodies, poor track record in receiving national awards and recognition, poor share in research funding and so on. Commonly stated reasons for these observations include Government/political interference in the management of the University, lack of autonomy, poor governance structures, corruption, poor quality of teachers, outdated curricula, plagiarism, poor infrastructure and facilities, overcrowding, evils of the "affiliation" system and poor linkages with alumni and industry. — *C.N. Krishnan in The Hindu*

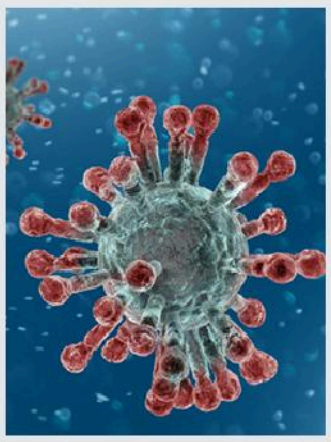
NEWS SPARKLERS

Yearly truck gardening contest in Japan

Tokyo: Every year, landscaping experts from all over Japan get together to compete in the Key Truck Garden Contest, a unique event that has participants turning the beds of mini trucks into the most impressive miniature gardens they can.

The results are nothing short of awe-inspiring. The Kei Truck, or "kei-tora", is a small yet practical utility vehicle invented in Japan, but used throughout Asia, primarily in construction and agriculture. It's been a part of Japanese culture for decades, and people love it because it provides plenty of space and it's easy to manoeuvre on narrow streets. But once a year, Key trucks take centre stage as canvases for ingenious landscaping masterpieces, during the Kei Truck Garden Contest, a special event sponsored by the Japan Federation of Landscape Contractors.

Slammed for allegedly selling 'Blessed Antibacterial Gel'

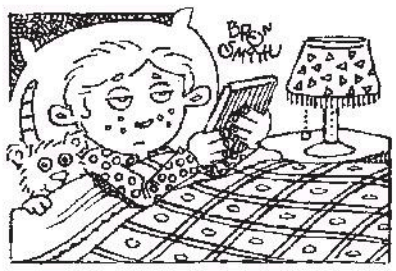


Buenos Aires: "Pastor Gimenez" in Argentina, was recently accused of trying to profit off of the global Coronavirus pandemic by trying to sell "Blessed antibacterial gel" to his followers. The Argentine evangelical pastor was denounced last Wednesday before prosecutor Matías Michienzi by a lawyer who said that the antibacterial gel was being offered at the Temple of Waves of Love and Peace, located in the Buenos Aires neighbourhood of Almagro.

The complaint mentioned that the bottles of gel were also sold on the church's Facebook page where they were being promoted as blessed by Pastor Gimenez to provide protection against the novel Coronavirus.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

What is the most common cause of sleep difficulties among teenagers?



According to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll, 56% of parents of teens with sleep difficulties blame overuse of electronic devices for their child's sleep problems.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

Ph.D awardees

Mysuru, Mar. 26- The University of Mysore (UoM) has awarded Ph.D in Management to **G.S. Raghavendra** for his thesis 'Digital Marketing Strategies of Select Brands of Sports Products' submitted under the guidance of Dr. A.M. Sudhakara.

M. Shankar Lingam has been awarded Ph.D in Management by the UoM for his thesis 'A Study of Internet of Things Security in Smart Healthcare in Select Cities of India' submitted under the guidance of Dr. A.M. Sudhakara.

H.D. Saritha has been awarded Ph.D in Economics by the UoM for her thesis 'Impact of Health Expenditure on Households Standard of Living: A Case Study of Mysuru District' submitted under the guidance of Dr. M. Mahesha.

H.A. Arjun has been awarded Ph.D in Chemistry by Annamalai Universities - Centre for Academic Research (CARE) for his thesis 'Design, Synthesis, Structural Education and In Virto Studies of Benzohydrazide, 1, 3, 4 - Oxadiazole, and Coumarin Derivaties as Anticancer Agents' submitted under the guidance of Dr. S. Kabilan, according to a press release.

Animal adoption continues at City Zoo

Mysuru, Mar. 26- The following have adopted animals of Mysuru Zoo under its 'Animal Adoption Scheme' by paying adoption fee:

Dr. M.D. Raghavendra Prasad, Managing Director, Bhamys Constructions Pvt. Ltd., Mysuru and M.G. Devarj, Manager, Shantala Theatre, Mysuru - White Tiger - Rs.1,00,000.

Jeetendra D. Rajdev, Hyderabad - Great Indian Hornbill - Rs.5,000; R. Vijay, Bengaluru - King Cobra and Black Crowned Night Heron - Rs. 5,500; Niveditha Hampiholi, Bengaluru - Ring Tailed Lemur - Rs. 5,000; Manini Mahila Samaja, Mysuru - Four Horned Antelope - Rs.5,000.

Really...?

- *Chalk is made from trillions of microscopic plankton fossils.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Define Surround Sound System?
AWARD WINNING ANSWER:
Wife in the front seat of the car, her mother and sister in the back seat !

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.60
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 88.15
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.58
1 Euro	= Rs. 81.34

VOICE OF THE READER

This is the time to say 'Yes We Can'

Sir,

People of India magnificently responded to the call of the Prime Minister to observe *Janata Curfew* to stay indoors on 22nd instant and joined in clapping to thank the medical fraternity for their services.

But it is disappointing to observe that the same type of restraint was lacking from next day. People were seen moving freely as though nothing has happened that constrained the PM to remark that people have not taken seriously to observe the lock-down.

It must be realised that the only way the rampaging of Coronavirus can be stopped is to observe strictly the lockdown. Doctors have made it clear that Coronavirus can spread in geometrical proportions if people come out and take a heavy toll of lives. The way it has spread in the US and Europe should be an object lesson.

It is unthinkable that some people have taken it lightly and showing bravado to move around thinking that nothing will happen to them. It reminds me of the instance in Mahabharata when all the Pandavas were dead except for Yudhistira. Then he was asked by the Yaksha as to what is one thing in world that astounds him.

He replies: When everybody is dying all around him man thinks that death does not touch him. This is exactly what is happening today. The people who show such mindset have no right to be an agent to spread the infection.

The world is facing unprecedented situation and it is only India with 1.3 billion population appears to be holding on and till now only 10 deaths have been reported.

In fact, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday that India has a great talent and it should show the way to the world. Perhaps it is a great compliment to the people of India and its leadership quality.

India is facing an unprecedented situation and the challenge should be met to defeat Coronavirus infection. Everybody should rise to the occasion for it is in their hands to defeat the spread of Coronavirus.

It calls for patience, restraint and sacrifice for some time which is not too much to ask and the alternative is to plunge the country into an unmitigated medical disaster.

—H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana
on e-mail

Saraswathipuram
24.3.2020

COVID-19 relief

Doles for workers, vendors; 2 months' advance in social security pension

Bengaluru, Mar. 26 (UNI)- With more cases of Coronavirus or COVID-19 being reported with the total tally seeing an alarming rise, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, making a statement on the floor of Assembly, said "The Government had announced a lockdown till Mar. 31 in the entire State to control the spread of virus. To take care of the people coming under APL and BPL categories social security pension of two months would be released in advance. Also, 21 lakh construction workers will be paid Rs. 1,000 per person.

Calling it testing times and the aim to ensure that the State does not reach the third stage of COVID-19 outbreak, the CM added that the Government under *Badavara Bandhu* (interest-free loan to roadside vendors) scheme, has decided to waive Rs. 13.20 crore loans. This include Rs. 9.10 crore in 2018-19 benefiting 15,120 people, and Rs. 5.16 crore in 2019-20, benefiting 6,500 people.

The State is bracing for the possibility of large-scale outbreak said Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathanarayana on the floor of Legislative Council, "The State is readying 20,000 beds and 2,000 ventilators to tackle the eventuality and Government has ordered 10 lakh personal protection kits, 15 lakh three-layer masks and 5 lakh N-95 masks in an effort to stem the spread of the disease," he added.

"Before I start with my reply to the discussion on the budget, I will have to tell one thing. When I assumed office, the difficult situation that existed (floods in parts of the State) and the same situation has cropped up once again," Yediyurappa said in the Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that the COVID-19 virus was haunting not only the people of the State, but the entire world like a monster.

Listing out the steps taken to control the spread of COVID-19, including release of Rs. 200 crore, the Chief Minister said though the first coronavirus death in the country was from Karnataka, the Government had been able to control the spread of the virus to an extent. "Everyone, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had lauded the steps taken by the State government," he said.

"We are in the second stage of COVID-19 and it should not go to third or the fourth stage. We have taken measures so that we don't go into the third stage. I am honestly saying that we have taken steps so that the virus does not worry our people and I am confident that our people will soon come out the fear of this virus," he said.

Yediyurappa also slammed Opposition parties Congress and JD(S) for boycotting his reply and said he had expected them to join the government in sending a clear message by instilling confidence among people in these difficult times.

Congress on Tuesday boycotted the session, accusing the government of not heeding to the oppositions views and tabling and passage of the bills, despite its reservations, JD(S) too walked out as Speaker Vishveshwar Hegde Kageri did not agree to the party's demand of allowing them to raise an issue before the Chief Ministers reply on the budget.

No charge on cash withdrawals from any bank's ATM for 3 months

New Delhi, Mar. 26 (UNI)- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that debit card holders who withdraw cash from any bank's ATM can do it free of charge for the next three months to promote digital financial transactions at the time of coronavirus pandemic.

" ...so you may have a debit card from a bank, a particular bank, but you will now be allowed, without additional charges, to draw cash from any other bank's ATM for the next three months," the Finance Minister said.

She further said that there shall not be any minimum balance requirement fee in bank accounts. She further added that bank charges for digital trade transactions are also being reduced.

Minimum balance requirement

Most banks demand a minimum balance requirement from an account holder and non-maintenance could attract penalty. The minimum balance requirement could range anywhere between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. On March 10, SBI had waived ATM charges for all 44.51 crore Savings Bank accounts.

Addressing the media amid the coronavirus scare, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made announcements regarding Income Tax, Goods and Services Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, bank-related compliance matters and others in an eight-point compliance relief package.

The Union Finance Ministry today extended the deadline for filing income tax returns for the financial year 2018-19 till June 30, 2020.

The Government has also extended the deadline for linking of Aadhaar and PAN till June 30 from the original deadline of March 31.

Police, former MLA distribute food packets, masks to destitutes and stranded persons

Former MLA M.K. Somashekar and DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda continued distributing food packets and water bottles to the stranded people and the shelterless near Railway Station in city this morning.

Mysuru, Mar. 26 (RK & DM)- Even as the city celebrated a low-key Ugadi in the wake of Coronavirus on Wednesday with people confined to their homes following the national lockdown announced by the Union Government, the City Police and former MLA M.K. Somashekar in a humane gesture, distributed food packets and face-masks to destitutes, stranded persons and the shelterless at several places in city yesterday.

A Police team headed by DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and N.R. ACP Shivashankar distributed food packets to a number of destitutes at City Railway Station and other places in the vicinity, with hotels and restaurants remaining shut due to the lockdown.

Somashekar, along with members of Janaspandana Trust, distributed food packets, water bottles and face-masks to over 500 people who were left stranded at City Bus Stand,Suburban Bus Stand, Agrahara Circle and Cheluvamba Hospital due to non-availability of public transport to return to their native places. Somashekar had taken permission from the district administration for free distribution of food packets.

Trust members Gunashekar, Nagamahadeva, Harsha, Ramesh, Guru, Devaraja Police personnel and others were present.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

A Pair of Goddesses

Across India, there are many temples where the Goddess is worshipped as a pair of women. In Nainital, Uttarakhand, we find the temple of Nanda and Sunanda Devi. At this temple, we find the Goddess worshipped as a pair — Nanda and Sunanda. In Gujarat, we find the temple of Chamunda and Chotila atop a hill. Here too, we find the Goddess as a pair — two of them, worshipped together, leaning on each other.

Also, Ravi Randal Mata represent the two wives of Surya, Saranya and Chaya, light and shadow. In Rajasthan, Shakambari is worshipped with Satakshi. In Ujjain, it is Mahamaya and Mahalaya, the two female guardians of the Shiva's forest, Mahakaalvan. In Odisha, there are the twin Tara Tarini Goddess.

In Telangana, a great fair is held in January by the local tribal communities for the mother and daughter pair of Samakka and Saralamma, legendary warriors who led the community a thousand years ago. In Bengal, Manasa-Netadhobani, the snake-venom removing Goddess and the washer-woman Goddesses, are worshipped as a pair, reminding us of tantrik yogini collectives, associated with 'lower' caste professions, who battle celibate jogis.

During Ganesh Chaturthi, the Goddess Gauri is worshipped. She is worshipped in two forms — Jyeshtha, or the elder one and Kanishtha, or the younger one. The Kanishtha Gauri is brought from the main door, while the Jyeshtha Gauri is brought from the back door and, together, they are located on either side of Ganesha and worshipped. Some identify the two Goddesses as Ganga and Gauri, the two mothers of Ganesha, one who sits on Shiva's head and the other who sits on his lap.

In Vidarbha region, Lakshmi is worshipped as two pots, representing her and her sister, during "karva-ashtami" just before Diwali.

Who are these twin Goddesses? This is not very clear. They are sometimes described as sisters, sometimes as mother and daughter, sometimes Goddess and her companion, and sometimes as co-wives of the same deity (like the two wives of Shiva, or the two wives of Surya). Rarely, are they seen as two friends, who together go into battle to defeat an asura who cannot be defeated by a single person.

So, the two are worshipped in pairs. Some have argued that these represent the twin forms of the Goddess — the white and the black; the one that creates and the one that destroys. So, the pairing then becomes the wild form and the domestic form of the Goddess. But, one cannot be really sure. In Mesopotamian mythology, one does finds such Goddess pairs, Ishtar and Ereshkigal, who love the same man, embodying life and death, spring and winter.

Some have suggested that these could represent lesbian couples who committed suicide or who met with violent deaths at hands of householders who did not approve their relationship. To appease their twin spirits, temples were built for the two Goddesses. But, this is highly speculative. Or two sisters who chose not to get married or two friends who gave each companionship rather than choosing marriage. Or co-parents in a different kind of a household.

Stories such as these empower a younger generation of women seeking some kind of a cultural foundation that breaks heteronormative patriarchal stereotypes.

devdutt@devdutt.com

What this Virus has taught me

By N.K.A. Ballal,
Retd. Sr. Vice-President, ITDC

A Gaur Gopal Das sermon, which I wanted to share with *SOM* readers: Any of you getting frustrated at what is happening now ? Or any of you are disappointed that your plans are not going through ? Things are only going wrong in your life? You must have asked this question several times: Why is this happening to me?

Ballal

Let me tell you a personal story of what happened to me a couple of years back. In November 2014, I went on a spiritual trip led by my Guru Radhaswami to a small but vibrant temple town called Udupi along with a group of 5,000 disciples. Every morning for the three days we were there, ten groups of 500 each would visit various spots in and around Udupi.

In the evening our Guru would deliver his sermon and after that he would ask us to chant keerthans and dance in joy. This went on for the first two days without any blip. What a bliss.

Last day, as I was singing and dancing with vigour, I heard a crunch in my toe and knew immediately that there was something wrong. In tremendous pain, helped on by my two friends, I was taken to a doctor, who diagnosed it as a fracture and advised me rest for three months. I came back to Mumbai. All my travel plans had to be cancelled. I was not able to even go to an important summit in Germany where I was the keynote speaker.

Frustrating, all plans blown out of the window. Yet I decided to see the positive side of this injury. For three months I started to read all the books which I always wanted to read but somehow did not find the time. I also took care of my health. Met a lot of people which otherwise was hard because of my schedule. By January 2015, I was up and running back doing my normal schedules.

Four months later, May 2015, as I put my foot down from bed, I heard the same crunch in my toe again and the same cracking pain reappeared. Ironically, in the same toe. Based on my experience I knew it was a fracture. Why me ? I asked myself since I knew that again all my scheduling will have to be changed.

Next morning I went to an Ortho, a friend of mine, who upon examination confirmed that it indeed was another fracture. He asked me: "Do you play football in your spare time ?" I asked: "Doctor, I may look like a sportsman, but I have never played any sport in my life, why did you ask?" He said: "This kind of fracture, Jones fracture, is very common to footballers." Still, it is not common to have a fracture on the same spot without any stress.

Can you get a bone density test done and bring me the result? When I brought the result to the doctor, it confirmed his worst fears. He said: "You have a condition called Osteopenia, used to be a ladies problem but now quite common among men too." He then prescribed the line of treatment. As I sat there looking at him, writing the prescription, it suddenly stuck me if I had not got the second fracture on the same spot, the doctor would never have recommended the bone density scan and I would have never come to know that my bones were getting brittle and the reverse Osteopenia would have turned into something very terrible and irreversible over the years.

With this changed perspective, I was grateful for the second fracture, although it meant another three months of forced rest. Yes, I lost three months but regained bone health with proper treatment. What is good and what is bad is a relative thing. Never evaluate something based on a face value. What is apparently bad may turn out to be good in the long run and vice-versa.

Now, let us apply this logic to the current Coronavirus self quarantine. You may not be able to go to a restaurant or a movie; forced to eat boring home food. The flip side of this is that you eat healthy home food; out of sheer boredom you may pick up a book and start reading it. Practice safe and good hygiene habits like washing hands etc., which later on becomes a habit. With so much time, you may start observing nature, learn to observe the beauty of flowers, trees, birds etc.

To conclude, let us start enjoying this self quarantine. Think that it is a blessing to be with your family and so spend quality time with them; you will notice that the time passes very fast, you look glowing and feel better at the end of the quarantine period. On the contrary, if you start brooding over this, you will feel miserable and make others miserable too. So, it is up to you. Use this period to catch up with things you always wanted to do but could not and at the end of it, thank God you are safe and sound.

As a Spokesman of the WHO said, the whole world is watching how this population of billion plus is going to cope up with this virus. We Indians can and we will show the way to the rest of the world. Do you agree ?

ananthballal@gmail.com

MCC sprays disinfectants in wards

Mysuru, Mar.26 (RK&DM)- Even as the Government is battling to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has launched spraying of disinfectants (Fumigation) in all 65 wards.

Speaking to *SOM*, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde said that spraying of disinfectants (Sodium Hypo Chloride) has begun from Wednesday. Pointing out that four vehicles have been drawn from the Fire and Emergency Services Department for fumigation, he said that the drive will be jointly carried out by the Fire Department and MCC staff, using fogging machines.

Working hours of Pourakarmikas cut: Continuing, Gurudatta Hegde said that the working hours of all MCC Pourakarmikas has been cut from Wednesday considering their health and safety in the wake of COVID-19.

Stating that the working hours of Pourakarmikas which was from 6.30 am to 2 pm, has now been rescheduled to 6 am to 10.30 am, he said likewise, the working hours of underground drainage workers has been rescheduled to 8 am to 1 pm, from the usual 8 am to 4 pm. Maintaining that he has directed the officials to take all precautionary measures for ensuring the health of the civic workers, he said that all civic workers must compulsorily wear safety gloves, face masks and gumboots while on work. He has directed officials to distribute safety gears, hand sanitisers and liquid hand wash.

Asking all the civic workers to seek medical attention immediately in case they show symptoms such as cough, fever, sneezing and throat pain, he advised them to be fully equipped with protective gears and also maintain social distancing while collecting wastes from homes and other places.

Spraying of disinfectants-Abhaya team at work: In order to contain the spread of the deadly Coronavirus, the MCC's Abhaya team has sprung into action, by carrying out spraying of disinfectant in all wards. The MCC staff, under the guidance of Health Officers Dr. Nagaraj and Dr. Jayanth, Development Officers Satyamurthy, Sunil and Nagaraj, sprayed the disinfectant at various places including Vijaya Bank Circle in Kuvempunagar, New Kantharaj Urs, Saraswathipuram, T.K. Layout, Kukkarahalli Lake and surrounding areas, Akashavani Circle, Yadavagiri, V.V. Mohalla, Jayalakshmipuram, Gokulam, Paduvarahalli, Metagalli, Hebbal, Vijayanagar and other localities. The fumigation was also aimed at preventing any possible outbreak of epidemics and to prevent mosquito breeding.

The spraying of disinfectant was also carried out at several ATMs and other public places as a sanitisation measure.

Miscreants light fire to garbage: While the entire emergency personnel are busy taking steps to safeguard the health of the public from the dreaded COVID-19, miscreants had lit fire to a heap of garbage on the *Jumboo Savari* road near Highway Circle this morning. Firefighters, who rushed to the spot extinguished the fire and prevented it from spreading further.

The Fire Department has urged the public not to light fire to garbage heaps, but instead stay indoors as directed by the Government and not trouble others unnecessarily.

Private clinics must be kept open during lockdown: DC

Kannan Pathology Lab on Sayyaji Rao Road functioned as usual today.

Mysuru, Mar. 26 (MK&BCT)- The Mysuru District Administration has ordered private doctors to keep their clinics open, which were shut over Coronavirus fear. The doctors claimed that they had shut the clinics to ensure the infection does not spread among other patients.

However, after getting complaints from citizens, the district authorities spoke to the general practitioners' body and asked them to refer the persons with Coronavirus infection symptoms to the Government-authorised screening centres. Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has asked private medical practitioners not to close their clinics even during the ongoing curfew in the State, imposed to stem the spread of the Coronavirus. He said medical clinics have been exempted from the purview of the curfew as they are part of essential services.

"I have come to know that some private practitioners have closed down their OPDs currently, which is not expected from them. OPDs are exempted from the curfew...they should keep their dispensaries open. The fear of transmission has led to closure of many private clinics. They need to remain open to take care of other patients. Some measures can be adopted to ensure social distancing so that the suspect may not spread of infection. The doctors can take care of themselves by using protective gear," he added.

District administration officials said that people with small health issues were approaching State-run hospitals and public hospitals, where the staff is engaged in screening and quarantine. This has increased their load. "We need the private health infrastructure to help the Government to tackle the spread of COVID-19. We have asked for a list of the additional beds and ventilator facilities in the private hospitals, which can be exclusively reserved for institutional quarantining of the suspects," he added.

Stickers in front of houses

As per the directions from the State Government, stickers will be pasted in front of houses where people have been put on home quarantine. "We are continuously monitoring the people who are under home quarantine and as per the Government's directive we are pasting 'home quarantine' stickers in front of their houses. We have collected their phone numbers and are constantly monitoring their health. In case of fever, cough and breathlessness, they have been asked to report to the screening centre at K.R. Hospital," the DC added.

Former Somali footballer dies of Coronavirus

London, Mar. 26- The Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Somali Football Federation (SFF) have announced the passing away of Somali legend Abdulkadir Mohamed Farah after suffering from Coronavirus. Farah passed away at a Northwest London Hospital on Tuesday after testing positive to the deadly virus last week. He was 59. Before his death, Farah was acting as an advisor to the Minister of Youth and Sport in Somalia. Farah was born in the city of Beledweyne, about 342 kilometres north of the capital Mogadishu on February 15, 1961. His football career dates back to 1976 when he first appeared in the national school's football tournament.

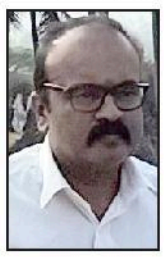
Free fodder to cattle owners

Mysuru, Mar.26 (PM&DM)- Following the lockdown, the MCC will supply fodder (grass) from its Sewage Farm to cattle owners of the city free of cost. The MCC's gesture comes after a letter written by K.R. MLA S.A. Ramdas, seeking distribution of fodder for free in the wake of lockdown.

In a big relief to cattle owners, the MCC has started distribution of a maximum of 60 kg of green grass once in every three days to each cattle owner. The grass will be supplied from the Sewage Farm in Vidyaranyapuram, which is maintained by the City Corporation.

Obituary

S. Mahadevaswamy



Mysuru, Mar. 26- S. Mahadevaswamy (48), proprietor of *Shreya Advertisers* and a resident of J.P. Nagar, passed away in the early hours of this morning at his residence following a heart attack.

He leaves behind his mother, wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram this afternoon, according to family sources.

Coronavirus etiquette means keeping your distance

Mysuru, Mar. 26- We must all make sacrifices in the COVID-19 Age. It's the new etiquette.

Visit a supermarket or a medical shop or a neighbourhood store today and you're likely to be greeted outside by a member of staff. But they won't be helping you with your shopping. Instead they'll be ensuring you stick to the new strict social-distancing rules. All shops, grocery shops, milk booths, medical shops, supermarkets have marked out boxes on floors so customers can keep a safe distance during Coronavirus crisis.

At supermarkets and shops you'll be met by a staff, wearing gloves, called greeters. Their jobs are exactly the same: To ensure only a limited number of shoppers enter stores at any one time. They check if people are queuing responsibly and that shoppers wait patiently and stand two to three metres away from each other.

Some shops scan your forehead for temperatures through thermal scanners and will allow you in only if you don't have fever and symptoms. And the doors are open only after your hands are sanitised and after you wear a mask. The rules are as much to protect store workers as shoppers.

Shopping is no longer a leisure activity. Instead, visits to a store — which you're only supposed to make to pick up essentials — will be carefully regulated.

Shops also no longer want your cash. Instead, they are trying to encourage shoppers to pay by contactless card to cut down on potentially virus-covered cash being passed around the population. You'll see posters encouraging you to look after yourself and treat staff well.

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